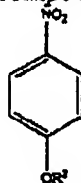


App. No. 10/666,543
 Amdt dated: February 28, 2005
 Reply to Office Action of September 28, 2004

or 10.

Claim 20. (original) A method of producing N-acetyl-p-aminophenol in a solvent minimized environment, which comprises contacting a compound of the formula:



wherein R₂ is -H or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group with a catalytic amount of a catalyst system comprising (i.) an oxyethylene ether; and (ii.) alkali metal thioacetate for a time sufficient to form N-acetyl-p-aminophenol.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the oxyethylene ether is a polyethylene glycol or an aryl polyoxyethylene ether of the formula:



wherein R is an aryl, alkyl or aralkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and n has an average integer value between from about 9 to about 150.

Claim 22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the R₂ is -H.

Claim 23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the equivalent weight ratio of the compound of formula (II):alkali metal thioacetate is approximately 1:1.

Claim 24. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein R₂ is a C₁-C₄ alkyl group.

Claim 25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the equivalent weight ratio of the compound of formula (II):alkali metal thioacetate is approximately 1:3.

Claim 26. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the alkali thioacetate is potassium thioacetate.

~~Claim 27. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein n is about 40 to or 41.~~